

Application No. 10/748,432
Amdt. dated June 17, 2005
Reply to Office action of March 17, 2005

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Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1-14 (cancelled)

Claim 15 (previously presented) A method of accelerating the growth rate of a prematurely-born human infant by administering to said infant a composition comprising a seven carbon fatty acid or derivative thereof.

Claim 16 (previously presented) The method of Claim 15, where said seven carbon fatty acid comprises n-heptanoic acid.

Claim 17 (previously presented) The method of Claim 15, wherein said seven carbon fatty acid comprises a triglyceride comprising n-heptanoic acid.

Claim 18 (previously presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein said triglyceride comprises triheptanoin.

Claim 19 (previously presented) The method of Claim 15, wherein said derivative is selected from the group consisting of 4-methylhexanoate, 4-methylhexenoate, 3-hydroxy-4-methylhexanoate, 5-methylhexanoate, 5-methylhexenoate and 3-hydroxy-S-methylhexanoate.

Claim 20 (previously presented) The method of Claim 15, wherein said seven carbon fatty acid or derivative is a substituted, unsaturated or branched chain seven carbon fatty acid.

Claim 21 (previously presented) The method of any of Claims 15 to 20, wherein said composition is provided for consumption in one or more doses, and said doses comprise about 15 to about 40% of the dietary caloric requirement for said infant for 24 hours.

Claim 22 (previously presented) The method of any of Claims 15 to 20, wherein said composition is provided for consumption in one or more doses, and said doses comprise about 20 to about 35% of the dietary caloric requirement for said infant for 24 hours.

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Claim 23 (previously presented) The method of any of Claims 15 to 20, wherein said compound or derivative thereof is provided to said human infant in an amount comprising at least about 25% of the dietary caloric requirement for said infant.

Claim 24 (previously presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein said compound or derivative is provided. enterally.

Claim 25 (previously presented) The method of Claim 22, wherein said compound or derivative is provided enterally.

Claim 26 (previously presented) The method of Claim 23, wherein said compound or derivative is provided enterally.

Claim 27 (previously presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein said compound or derivative is provided parenterally.

Claim 28 (previously presented) The method of Claim 22, wherein said compound or derivative is provided. parenterally.

Claim 29 (previously presented) The method of Claim 23, wherein said compound or derivative is provided parenterally.

Claim 30 (previously presented) A method for accelerating the growth rate of a prematurely-born human infant, comprising administering to said patient a seven-carbon fatty acid chain composition whereby said infant rapidly obtains nutrition from odd carbon fatty acid β -oxidation metabolism, and wherein said composition is adapted for consumption in one or more doses, and said doses comprise about 15 to about 40% of the dietary caloric requirement for said infant for 24 hours.

Claim 31 (previously presented) The method of Claim 30, wherein said seven-carbon fatty acid composition comprises n-heptanoic acid.

Claim 32 (previously presented) The method of Claim 30 or 31, wherein said composition is administered via enteral administration.

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Claim 33 (previously presented) The method of Claim 32, wherein said enteral administration is oral.

Claim 34 (previously presented) The method of Claim 32, wherein said enteral administration is through a feeding tube.

Claim 35 (previously presented) The method of Claims 30 or 31 wherein said administration is parenteral.

Claim 36 (previously presented) The method of Claim 30 or 31, wherein said composition further comprises infant formula.